

WASHINGTON POST
19 March 1985

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE E-9

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Citizens Can Help Smash Drug Lords

The drug lords have declared war on the U.S. government. They kidnaped and killed an agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration in Mexico; they paid a gunman \$500,000 to murder U.S. Ambassador Edwin Gharst Corr in Bolivia; they exploded a bomb outside the U.S. Embassy in Colombia; they killed 19 members of a U.S.-sponsored program to eradicate coca bushes in Peru.

They put a price on the head of DEA ex-chief Francis M. Mullen Jr.; they threatened to kill five Americans for every drug dealer extradited from Colombia to the United States; they placed a \$300,000 bounty on DEA agents, dead or alive; they dispatched hit teams to gun down drug enforcement officers.

This brazen challenge by the underworld, backed by billions in illicit drug profits, must be met before it destroys our country. Already there has been a breakdown of law and order in the United States; this will be followed by chaos unless the drug gangs are smashed.

Cuban President Fidel Castro is betting that the United States will lose the drug war. Intelligence reports say he is secretly encouraging and supporting the drug trade. The depravity of the "Yanquis," he has boasted, will bring down the United States.

I think he's wrong, but emergency action is needed. Here's what I urge Americans who love their country to do:

■ Choose whose side you're on. Those who use cocaine and other "trendy" drugs are financing

lawlessness in America. All it would take to defeat the drug lords is for their customers to stop using the stuff; then the pernicious crime kings would lose their power overnight.

■ Demand that your local police and school authorities crack down on drug traffickers. Give no quarter to the street-corner and schoolyard pushers who are poisoning our children and ruining their lives. Now the drug dealers are cutting prices, my sources say, to hook more kids.

■ If you know who the drug pushers and peddlers are, send whatever evidence you have to the Drug Enforcement Administration, 1405 I St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20537.

■ Boycott movies and records that glamorize drugs. I urge an "X" rating on any movie that depicts drug abuse without showing the dreadful consequences that follow. Sen. William V. Roth Jr. (R-Del.) has sent investigators to Hollywood to examine how the drug cult, through films and records, has created a climate that encourages drug use. Roth's people found the three television networks, particularly NBC, willing to deglamorize drugs. But some movie makers, and the committee of seven that rates motion pictures, were uncooperative.

■ Withdraw your money from banks that launder drug profits. President Reagan has unleashed the desk-bound accountants of the Justice and Treasury departments to crack down on the money-laundries. Roth's investigators also are looking at the money laundering. "If we dry up their money," a law enforcement official said, "we will put them out of business."